

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L 1685

FQMO. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: POSSIBLE DEBATE ON KOREAN ITEM
IN UNGA

REF: STATE 98185

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER, ACTING FOR
PRESIDENT, CORE GROUP MEMBERS, MADE DEMARCHE TO DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(MDXFPO)#
TO MINISTER OF FINANCE AND JUSTICE (WHO WILL
HEAD SL DELEGATION TO ALGIERS NAC MEETING AT THE END
OF MAY AND WILL CHAIR FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING

IN AUGUST IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO COLOMBO SUMMIT). CONSENSUS
OF CORE GROUP HERE WAS THAT SRI LANKA, IN PRESIDING
ROLE, IS UNLIKELY TO BUCK WHAT APPEARS TO BE MAJORITY
POSITION UNLESS PERHAPS THERE IS CONFLICTING POSITION
OR RESOLUTION WHICH MIGHT ALLOW SOME ROOM FOR CHAIR TO
MANEUVER.GROUP ALSO BELIEVES IT MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT
FOR SL TO ABSTAIN ON KOREAN ISSUES AT UNGA AFTER
A NON-ALIGNED DOCUMENT WHICH MAY STRONGLY FAVOR NORTH KOREAN
POSITION. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND ANALOGOUS ONES RECEIVED BY THOSE CORE GROUP COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RESIDENT MISSIONS IN SRI LANKA (CANADA, FRG, US, UK, JAPAN, AND ROK), CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED A MEETING OF RESIDENT CORE GROUP TO DISCUSS LOCAL STRATEGY.

3. AS AGREED BY SIX MISSIONCHIEFS, CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER MARION MCPHEESON MET WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA) DIRECTOR GENERAL ARTHUR BASNAYA(3 ON MAY 5. SHE PRESENTED HIM WITH A WRITTEN AIDE MEMOIRE SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM OF PARA 4 OF REFTEL, AND STATED THAT BY AGREEMENT SHE WAS MAKING A DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF THE TEN CORE GROUP COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WERE AND WERE NOT REPRESENTED BY RESIDENT MISSIONS IN SRI LANKA. SHE ADDED THAT SIMILAR DEMARCHES WERE BEING MADE IN SOME 55 NON-ALIGNED CAPITALS, AND ASKED THAT SUBSTANCE OF HER DEMARCHE BE CONVEYED TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. BASNAYAKE PROMISED TO BRING THE MATTER TO PRIME

MINISTER'S ATTENTION. COMMENTING GENERALLY, HE SAID THAT SRI LANKA HAD SOUGHT TO STEER CLEAR OF THE KOREAN QUESTION IN THE PAST, TO THEN/TEND OF SBSTAINING ON BOTH SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS AND ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF PRIORITY IN THEGA LAST YEAR. IT WAS CLEAR THAT NORTH KOREA IS SEEKING A PARTICULARLY STRONG STATEMENT BY THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC) THIS YEAR, AS A STEPPING STONE TO ACHIEVING GREATER SUPPORT IN UNGA THEREAFTER. AT THIS POINT, CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SEPARATE RESOLUTION ON KOREA AT THE LIMA CONFERENCE AND THAT PARAGRAPHS 60 AND 61 OF THE LIMA DECLARATION HAD BEEN ESSENTIALLY MODERATE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM, EXPECIALLY WITH THE REFERENCE TO

THE NORTH-SOUTH STATEMENT ON JULY 4, 1972. SHE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IN PREPARING THE DRAFT OF THE POLITICAL DECLARATION FOR THE COLOMBO NAC, SRI LANKA WOULD SEE FIT NOT TO CARRY THE FORMULATION BEYOND THAT EXPRESSED AT LIMA.

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5. ON MAY 6, CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED UPON FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND JUSTICE, WHO WILL LEAD THE SRI LANKAN DELEGATION TO THE ALGIERS PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AT THE END OF MAY (AS HE DID TO LIMA LAST AUGUST), AND WHO WILL CHAIR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PORTION OF THE NAC IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT. SHE PRESENTED THE SAME AIDE MEMOIRE AND MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS AS THE

DAY BEFORE.THE INTERVIEW WITH BANDARANAIKE WENT IN LESS SATISFACTORY FASHION, AS HE APPEAREDLESS WELL-INFORMED ON THE ESSENTIAL FACTS ON KOREA. NOVERTHELESS, HE AGREED THAT THERE OUGHT TO BE STABILITY AND PEACE ON THE PENINSULA, AND THAT BOTH PARTIES SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN A SETTLEMENT. AND HE REITERATED SRI LANKA'S DESIRE NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE QUESTION.

6. IN LATER MEETING OF SIX LOCAL CORE AMBASSADORS, FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE WITH GENERAL AGREEMENT:
A. AS PRESIDING COUNTRY AT NAC, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT SRI LANKA WILL WISH TO URGE ON ANY ISSUE INLINE WHICH IS CONTRARY TO THE GENERAL POSITION OF SEEMING MAJORITY. SHOULD AN OPPOSING AND MORE MODERATE COUNTER-PROPOSAL BE MADE BY ANOTHER MEMBER, SRI LANKA IN CHAIR MIGHT BE WILLING TO USE WHATEVER PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS ARE AT IS DISPOSAL TOFAVOR MORE MODERATE POSITION. VMJENCE, IT SEEMED BEST HOPE FOR MODERATE OUTCOME ON KOREA RESTS ON CORE GROUP'S ABILITY TO FIND ANOTHER SPOKESMAN FOR CORE POSITION AT NAC.

B. SO FAR,GSL HAS BEEN RESISTING EXTREMELY STRONG DPRK PRESSURE TO ALLOW REOPENING OF RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE.IF GSL RESISTANCE REMAINS FIRM THROUGH HAC, IT IS POSSIBLE THERE MAY BE SOME EXPRESS OR PSYCHOLOGICAL TRADEOFF WHEREBY SRI LANKA WOULD GO ALONG TO GREATER EXTEND WITH DPRK POSITION IN LIEU OF LETTING THEM IN.

C. IF NAC DOES PASS STRONG RESOLUTION ALONG LINES DESIRED BY DPRK, IT MAY WELL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR GSL TO ADHERE AT UNGA TO LAST YEAR'S RELATIVELY ALOOF POSITION OF ABSTENTION, INASMUCH AS PRIME MINISTER WILL BE RAPPORTEUR FOR NAC TO UNGA.WHILE MANY NAC MEMBERS
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PAY LIP SERVICE TO PRINCIPLE THAT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT NAC BY CONSENSUS ARE NOT BINDING ON INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AT UNGA, IT MAY BE LESS EASY FOR HOST COUNTRY NOT TO ADHERE TO ENTIRE SLATE OF RESOLUTIONS.

7. THIS EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP ON CANADIAN DEMARCHE LATER IN MONTH IN ONE MORE ROUND OF GENERAL DISCUSSION (STATE 109822) ON SH VPERS#ON KOREA, MIDDLE EAST AND PUERTO RICO, ALL OF WHICH ARE WELL KNOWN AND UNDERSTOOD BY GSL AS THE RESULT OF SEVERAL PREVIOUS DEMARCHES BY AMBASSADOR VAN HOLLEN. PERKINS

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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